(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
9 September 2005 (09.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/083107 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C12Q 1/68

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/005767

(22) International Filing Date: 24 February 2005 (24.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/546,945 24 February 2004 (24.02.2004) US

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

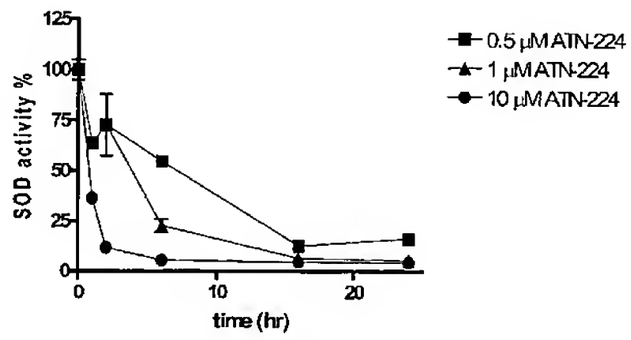
(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
22 December 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: INHIBITION OF SUPEROXIDE DISMUTASE BY TETRATHIOMOLYBDATE: IDENTIFICATION OF NEW ANTI-ANGIOGENIC AND ANTITUMOR AGENTS



(57) Abstract: Though copper is elevated in the tumor tissue and plasma of patients with various malignancies, the molecular targets for copper binding agents in angiogenesis and tumor progression remain poorly understood. It is disclosed that one anti-angiogenic target for the copper binding agent tetrathiomolybdate is intracellular CuZn-superoxide dismutase (SOD1). A second generation tetrathiomolybdate analog, ATN-224, inhibits endothelial cell (EC) proliferation in vitro, binds to SOD1 and inhibits its activity without displacing bound copper. ATN-224 can accumulate in ECs and inhibit CuZnSOD activity with an IC_{50} similar to the IC_{50} for EC proliferation, resulting in increased generation of intracellular reactive oxygen species. Inhibition of EC proliferation by ATN-224 in vitro is substantially reversed by a synthetic porphyrin SOD mimetic. Similar results were observed in vivo, where inhibition of angiogenesis by ATN-224 in a Matrigel plug model was also reversed by MnTBAP. Thus, a distinct molecular target for copper depletion therapy has been identified and SOD1 is now validated as a target for anti-angiogenesis. Methods for screening, or designing, such SOD1 inhibitors for use as angiogenesis inhibitors and anti-cancer agents are disclosed.

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